

Sailing 20 February 2022

Autumn Series START

Very light winds had the Electrons drifting through only half their usual number of races in the morning. At 2pm there was no wind at all and racing may have been abandoned but just enough breeze came a few minutes later to attempt a race start.

Eight members were at the pond for the racing but one pulled out with sheeting issues.



Race 1 showed that Bruce Watson and George Stead would dominate in the light winds (above) pulling away to a large lead with Laurie Glover (hidden behind Bruce) leading the rest.



Race 2, even with a handicap start, had the same exact results except George dogged Bruce's transom all the way around and managed to pass on the final leg to take the win by a few inches (left). At times the boats were all becalmed, even though the race course

was quite short, it was now just a few minutes to 3pm after 2 races.



At the start of **race 3** many were left windless (above) but Alan Watson and Simon Adamson (top left) found a breeze, Alan getting a large lead but ran out of wind by the first mark. George and Bruce (closest) now found a breeze close to the path. While Alan did round first the other two were right on his transom. The results were the same as race 1.

With four races needed to be completed to have a result (scaled) for the day we started **race 4** in a very light breeze. Bruce soon had a very large lead while George led the rest. With the wind dying at the bridge end of the course Bruce was becalmed while George started to catch up and Alan was close behind. The results were, again, the same except Alan held on to be third.

There seemed to be just time to get a **race 5** completed if it was made a single lap so this was started as soon as all the boats finished. This time it



was George that went to a large lead in slightly more wind (above) chased by Bruce while Laurie and Alan were close behind. Laurie passed Bruce on the final leg to be second, Alan fourth.

As the wind had picked up it still wasn't quite 4pm so we quickly started the final, divisional, **race 6**, also to be a single lap. With the standard 70, 40, 0 start



times this did favour the early starters. Laurie led around the first mark with Alan close behind, Chris Yates coming in on starboard and Simon next (above). By the end Simon had moved to second place with Alan holding another third placing.

Bruce Watson, with three wins and **George Stead** with two wins were equal top boats today with 8 points each. **Laurie Glover** had 12 points and one win plus several seconds and thirds to be third. Alan Watson had his best results with 2 thirds and a fourth.

Members and Boats

George Stead has bought another boat, one of those advertised for sale a month or so ago: 55. It had been given to a St.John's and George was asked how much it may be valued at. He made an offer and it was accepted. The boat was in very bad condition with long cracks in the hull and holes in the deck. George has patched the hull and deck, stripped off the paint and repainted it. New sails, servos and receiver completed the transformation.

See [Wayne's Facebook page](#) for more photos.

Richard Plinston, President NZRYS

Next Week(s):

February 27: Autumn Series 2

March 6: Aggregate Match Race Series 4

March 13: Autumn Series 3

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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